

I think of myself forever
sitting upon the edge
of the bed
in my shorts with
toenail clippers
cracking off
huge and ugly chunks
of nail
as I smile
in victory
while my white cat
sits in the window
looking out over the
town
as the telephone
rings ...

in between the
punctuating
agonies
life is such a
gentle habit,
I understand what
Saroyan
meant:

I think of myself forever
walking down the
stairs
opening the door
walking down to the
mailbox
and finding all that
advertising
which
I don't believe
either.

SHE GOES FOR THE SPIN-OFF

she comes rushing in
excited.
"guess what?" she asks.
"gee, I dunno..." I say.
"I'm going to see this punk band,
the lead guy named himself after
you, he calls himself Chuck
Dukowski!"
"oh yeah?"

she rushes about preparing herself
for the evening.

"bye!" she hollers up the
stairway.
"bye, bye!" I holler back
down.

the door slams, I listen to her
car start, back out the driveway,
then I'm alone
again.

— Charles Bukowski

San Pedro CA

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